

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A sender can create and send an instant voice message that can be delivered to recipients with SMS-enabled wireless stations regardless of the other communication capabilities of the wireless stations and the network or network service providers of the recipients. The sender creates an instant voice message and sends the message to a message server, which stores the message in an interactive voice response (IVR) system. If the instant voice message is a Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) message and the intended recipient's device does not support the MMS protocol, the voice content is extracted from the message and stored in the IVR system. An SMS notification is sent to the recipient and includes instructions for accessing the instant voice message from the IVR system. The recipient views the SMS notification and accesses the IVR system. If it is not known whether the recipient has an SMS-enabled wireless station, the message server initiates attempts to send SMS notifications using multiple SMS message generation mechanisms. The IVR system also enables the recipient to create and send a reply instant voice message to the sender or to create a new instant voice message without requiring a sending device with any dedicated voice messaging capabilities.

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